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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03729 140608Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 ICA-15 DODE-00 NEA-07
NSAE-00 HA-06 PA-02 SMS-01 SP-02 SPRS-02 (ADS) W
-----066157 142134Z /46

R 131448Z AUG 81
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3594
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3729

EO 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUM SW UR
SUBJ: NEW WRINKLES IN THE WALLENBERG STORY

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO THE SWEDISH EVENING TABLOID "AFTONBLADET", A RETIRED SOVIET ARMY LIERTENANT NOW LIVING IN ISRAEL CLAIMS TO HAVE MET SOVIET OFFICERS INVOLVED IN RAOUL WALLENBERG'S SEIZURE IN BUDAPEST IN 1945. THEIR UNIT WAS SUPPOSEDLY HEADED BY THEN-MAJOR GENERAL LEONID BREZHNEV. THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY, REPORTEDLY SKEPTICAL OF THE INFORMATION, HAS DISPATCHED AN OFFICIAL TO ISRAEL TO INTERVIEW "AFTONBLADET'S" SOURCE, YAAKOV LEONTEVICH LAKHOTSKY-MENAKER. END SUMMARY.

2. "AFTONBLADET" BEGAN ON AUGUST 9 A SERIES BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH LAKHOTSKY-MENAKER, WHO REPORTEDLY EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL IN 1975 AFTER SERVING 31 YEARS IN THE SOVIET ARMY. AT VETERANS GATHERINGS IN THE USSR BEGINNING IN 1976, LAKHOTSKY-MENAKER ENCOUNTERED A MAN NAMED AMINJEV, WHO HAD BEEN DECORATED FOR PLANNING AND EXECUTING WALLENBERG'S SEIZURE DURING SERVICE WITH THE POLITICAL BRANCH OF THE SOVIET 18TH ARMY (A UNIT SUPPOSEDLY HEADED BY BREZHNEV). AMINJEV AND OTHERS AT THESE PERIODIC MEETINGS SPOKE KNOWINGLY BUT GUARDEDLY OF THE "SUCCESSFUL" UNCLASSIFIED
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03729 140608Z

OPERATION AGAINST WALLENBERG, ACCORDING TO LAKHOTSKY-MENAKER.

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IS/PC/CDR
MR Cases Only:
EO Citations
FOIA Exemptions
() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() DENY () DECLASSIFY
() DATE Non-Responsive Info
() CLASSIFY as
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3. PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY LEIF LEIFLAND REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED THE MFA'S GREAT SKEPTICISM OVER LAKHOTSKY-MENAKER'S INFORMATION, SINCE IT DIFFERS CONSIDERABLY FROM EARLIER TESTIMONY AND DOCUMENTATION. FOREIGN MINISTER ULLSTEN SAID: "THE RUSSIANS KNOW CONSIDERABLY MORE ABOUT THE WALLENBERG CASE THAN THAT THEY SAY. BUT WE CANNOT FORCE THEM TO RELEASE WHAT THEY HAVE." NONETHELESS, THE MFA SENT AN EXPERT--LARS-AKE NILSSON, NOW POSTED IN LONDON--TO ISRAEL AUGUST 12 TO INTERVIEW LAKHOTSKY-MENAKER. HAMILTON

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